

Message Text

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ACTION LAB-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW, BE, FR, UK

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON
COAL MINE WORKERS' COMPENSATION

REF: STATE 181302

1. THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY (DHSS)
HAS JUST PROVIDED THE EMBASSY WITH ANSWERS TO THE QUEST-
IONS POSED REFTEL. THE FULL TEXT OF DHSS REPLY IS BEING
POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT TOGETHER WITH EXPLANATORY BOOKLETS
ON THE UK COMPENSATION PROGRAM. A SHORT SUMMARY OF THE
DHSS ANSWERS FOLLOWS.

2. A. THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF MEN EMPLOYED IN THE COAL
MINING INDUSTRY IN 1974/75 WAS 245,971. THE NUMBER OF
MEN EITHER CURRENTLY OR FORMERLY EMPLOYED IN RECEIPT OF
DISABLEMENT BENEFIT AT SEPTEMBER 30 1974 (LATEST
AVAILABLE FIGURE) WAS 31,080.

B. NUMBER COMPENSATED IN 1948 AT START OF UK SCHEME
NOT KNOWN.

C. NO DETAILS AVAILABLE BUT IT IS ESTIMATED THAT NOT
MORE THAN THREE MONTHS ELAPSES BETWEEN A CLAIM BEING
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MADE AND, IN THE EVENT OF AN AWARD BEING MADE, BENEFIT

BEING PAID.

D. THE BENEFIT PAYABLE FOR PNEUMOCONIOTICS IS DISABLE-
MENT BENEFIT. PAYMENT IS DEPENDENT ON THE DEGREE OF
DISABLEMENT THE CLAIMANT IS SUFFERING. ASSESSMENT OF
THE DEGREE OF DISABLEMENT IS BASED ON THE LOSS OF FACULTY
DUE TO THE DISEASE, OF ITS IMPACT ON THE CLAIMANT'S
ABILITY TO CARRY OUT NORMAL DAILY ACTIVITIES. DISABLE-

MENT BENEFIT IS NOT COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF EARNINGS AS
SUCH. (BOOKLETS BEING POUCHED EXPLAIN THE POINT IN
DETAIL).

E. AS PAYMENT OF DISABLEMENT BENEFIT TO PNEUMOCONIOTICS
IS ONLY PART OF THE WIDER SCHEME OF BENEFITS PAID UNDER
THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT, SEPARATE DETAILS OF THE COST OF
ADMINISTERING BENEFITS TO SUFFERERS FROM PENUMOCONIOSIS
ARE NOT AVILABLE.

F. THIS INFORMATION IS NOT READILY AVAILABLE, BUT G
BELOW REFERS TO THIS QUESTION TO SOME EXTENT.

G. EXACT DETAILS FOR THE EARLY YEARS OF THE SCHEME ARE
NOT AVAILABLE BUT THE FIGURES INDICATE THERE WERE IN
EXCESS OF 10,000 NEW CASES EXAMINED DURING 1951. OF
THESE, PNEUMOCONIOSIS WAS DIAGNOSED IN ABOUT 3,000 CASES.
IN 1975, THERE WERE 14,487 CLAIMS, AND 683 CASES WERE
DIAGNOSED. THE NUMBER OF NEW CLAIMS IN 1975 WAS PROBABLY
HIGHER THAN WOULD NORMALLY BE EXPECTED AS SOME CLAIMS

WERE GENERATED BY THE NEW NATIONAL COAL BOARD SCHEME
(DETAILS BEING POUCHED). IN 1971, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE
WERE 8,732 CLAIMS WHICH RESULTED IN 623 CASES BEING
DIAGNOSED.

H. NO DETAILS AVAILABLE.

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